

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1105

Hello,

My name is Cara Donahue, and I live at 16 Fairview St., Apt. 2 in West Hartford, CT. This proposal matters to me for several reasons. I work as a school counselor in a middle school, and have children on my case load on the spectrum. Daily, I see the differences made by trained specialists working with these children to help them access their education. Second, I am personally touched by Autism disorders, having a cousin on the spectrum, as well as close friends with children on the spectrum. Also, I have worked as an aide in a preschool ABA classroom.

I strongly oppose SB 1105 because all children on the spectrum, like all other children in CT, have the right to a free appropriate public education. They cannot get this education unless properly trained educators design, implement and supervise this education. Staff who are not thoroughly trained in ABA CAN NOT design and supervise effective ABA programming that will enable our children to learn.

Passage of this bill will hurt the children I know and countless others. It will perpetuate financial reliance on the state of adults with autism who do not achieve independence because of inadequate education.

Thank you for your time.

Cara Donahue